

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2017**

The meeting was held in Conference Room A at the Department of Public Works Headquarters.

1. Call to order

At 9:10 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Thurston T. Reese
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Robert A. Ringler
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos
 Commissioner John Watkins

Absent but excused: Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner Vincent Rosario

Also in attendance were the following:

Emiko Thompson, Principal Engineer; Shillane Chen, Senior Civil Engineer; John Ickis, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; and Nayiri Vartanian, Principal Civil Engineering Assistant; Victor Le, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant

4. Approval of September 7, 2016, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 7, 2016, Highway Safety Commission meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

Follow-up Item

Denial of crossing guard at intersection of Woodbury Road and Casitas Avenue:
Appellant: Principal Rita Exposito

Mr. Ickis presented the attached Power Point presentation and summarized Public Works' recommendations as follows:

- Based on the results of the study, the intersection of Woodbury Road at Casitas Avenue did not meet the County's minimum criteria for crossing guard services and crossing services are not recommended.

Commissioner Estey indicated that one of the photos shown in the Power Point presentation appeared to show vehicles parked too close to the crosswalk, and he was concerned about approaching motorists' visibility of the children in the crosswalk. Ms. Thompson indicated that motorists should be stopped at the crosswalk when children are crossing because this is a signalized intersection.

Commissioner Villalobos asked whether the green curb on the north side of Woodbury Avenue east of Casitas Avenue was an authorized green curb. Ms. Thompson stated that Public Works will investigate whether the green curb was authorized.

Commissioner Ringler asked if there had been any fatalities at this location and Mr. Ickis indicated there had been none. Commissioner Watkins asked if the parking lot had been installed yet and Commissioner Estey indicated he thought there was supposed to be an increase in pedestrians with the installation of the new parking lot. Mr. Ickis responded that counts were taken after the parking lot had been installed. Mr. Ickis indicated that the crossing guard determined the minimum guidelines necessary to deploy a crossing guard were not met.

After hearing the testimony of staff, the Commission made the following motion:

1. Deny the appeal to implement a crossing guard at the intersection of Woodbury Road and Casitas Avenue.
2. Public Works to keep in contact with the school to determine whether the student population increases in the near future. If the school says there have been increases, Public Works to conduct new crossing guard study.
3. Public Works to provide the Commission with information on the green curb located on the north side of Woodward Avenue just east of Casitas Avenue.

The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Report on Business Other Than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update.

Ms. Guilmette stated that during the 4-month period since the Highway Safety Commission meeting on May 4, 2016, Public Works completed three studies for crossing guard services, one in which new crossing guard service was recommended and two in which crossing guard services were not recommended. Public Works is still evaluating 14 additional locations for crossing guard services.

Ms. Guilmette stated that the total number of locations with crossing guard service is 224. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 224 locations is 232, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

7. Public Comments on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Special Orders

- Election of new officers for the Highway Safety Commission

Ms. Guilmette asked for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Estey nominated Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Watkins declined this nomination before a vote could be taken.

The Commission unanimously voted for Chair Reese to continue as Chair.

The Commission unanimously voted for Commissioner Ringler to serve as Vice-Chair.

9. Unfinished Business and General Notes

There was no unfinished business or general notes.

10. New Business

Ms. Thompson officially introduced herself to the Commission. Ms. Chen and Mr. Le also introduced themselves to the Commission.

Commissioner Villalobos indicated that Eddie Torres, President of the East Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, asked him to attend a public meeting regarding motorists cruising along Whittier Boulevard. Public Works informed Commissioner Villalobos that Public Works staff would be attending the meeting and would report their findings to the Commission. Commissioner Villalobos stated that No Cruising signs were needed because there is crime, vandalism, and prostitution along Whittier Boulevard. Commissioner Ringler asked Public Works staff if the Commission could make a motion to prevent cruising and drag racing along Whittier Boulevard. Ms. Thompson stated there already is a County Ordinance prohibiting cruising in the unincorporated areas of the County. Ms. Thompson informed the Commission that Public Works installed cruising prohibition signs along Whittier Boulevard between the 710 Freeway and Gerhart Avenue. She stated that Supervisor Solis has asked Public Works to consider installation of Tow Away signs but to contact the businesses first to determine whether they approve.

Ms. Thompson indicated that Public Works has established their own Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic collisions down to zero in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. The intent of Vision Zero is to look at things holistically through education and enforcement. Public Works will also be working with Public Health regarding ideas for Vision Zero.

Commissioner Estey asked Public Works staff if there was anything that could be done to reduce hit and run bicycle-related collisions. Ms. Thompson stated that Public Works was moving toward creating more Complete Street, which includes Public Works working together with Regional Planning and the Department of Health to find solutions. Commissioner Ringler stated that the City of Santa Monica has rental bikes in its downtown areas. Ms. Thompson stated that Public Works plans to apply for grants to install dedicated buffers between vehicles and bikes. Commissioner Villalobos stated that some cities have a 3-foot buffer separating vehicles and bikes with some of the dividers being double white lines. Commissioner Villalobos stated that some cities are using planters in the streets. He stated that on Rosemead Boulevard, there are planters that collect water and filter before going into the storm drains.

Commissioner Villalobos stated that he had seen some No Vending signs posted to prohibit unauthorized on-street vending, and he wondered if those No Vending signs conflicted with the East Los Angeles beautification project.

Commissioner Reese asked Public Works staff what happens when a traffic signal goes on flash when a signal is inoperative. Ms. Thompson stated that if someone were to see a traffic signal in a flashing mode, they should notify dispatch of the traffic signal malfunction. Commissioner Ringler stated that the City of Los Angeles has a phone application that people can access to report a traffic signal malfunction. Ms. Thompson

stated that the vehicle code states that motorists at all approaches should stop before entering a signalized intersection that is malfunctioning. Commissioner Ringler mentioned that perhaps Public Works should be using a Public Service Announcement to provide the public with phone numbers to call during an emergency. Ms. Thompson stated that using Public Service Announcements is a great idea to incorporate into the County's Vision Zero planning.

Commissioner Estey asked for a status on whether the California Department of Transportation ever completed their sidewalk improvements on Pearblossom Highway at 82nd Street East, and if a crossing guard was ever deployed at this intersection. He also asked about the status of the Ford Boulevard/Cesar Chavez Freeway project that was discussed at a previous Highway Safety Commission meeting. Ms. Thompson stated that staff would provide an update about this location at the next scheduled meeting.

12. Date for Next Meeting Announced and Adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 5, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

IG:la

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Attach.